

FORD DESERTS SIX CHANCES PEACE MISSION LEFT FOR YOU ON WAY TO U.S. TO AID NEEDY

Jitney Jaunt General Abandons
Idea of "Getting Boys Out of
Trenches by Christmas."

GIVES HEALTH AS CAUSE

Others Will Try to Carry Out
Program as Originally Plan-
ned. Says Cable Dispatch.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Henry Ford has abandoned his endeavor to "bring the boys out of the trenches by Christmas," and sailed for America today aboard the liner Bergensfjord, according to dispatches from Bergen.

The peace program will be carried out by others who crossed from America on the Oscar II. Mrs. Rosika Schwimmer, Hungarian peace advocate, has promised to interest other leaders of the Women's International Peace Association in the movement for a neutral congress. Ford's secretary, Louis P. Lochner, remains with the peace delegates, who were due to reach Stockholm this afternoon.

Accompanied by Friend.

Dean S. S. Marquis, of Detroit, a close friend of Ford, and a servant, is accompanying the peace leader on the return trip, according to Bergen dispatches. Ford decided to quit the party principally because his health has not been good since his arrival in Norway. Dispatches from the United Press staff correspondent accompanying the party hinted early this week that Ford realized the success of his peace mission was hopeless, and stated that he intended to finish the mission "in a perfunctory manner and as inconspicuously as possible." The United Press brought the first word of Ford's departure yesterday of the disappearance of Ford and Marquis.

The Ford delegates en route to Stockholm are ignorant of the fact that their leader and principal financial backer has turned his face toward America. It is assumed here, however, that Ford will continue to pay the expenses of the peace party and that there will be no danger of any of the delegates being stranded. The fact that Ford, who really managed the expedition, combined with the party as Ford's personal representative, apparently gives this assurance.

Leaves \$270,000 Check.

One report from Bergen said that Ford left a check for \$270,000 to defray the future expenses of the party. A committee of five, whose composition will be announced at Stockholm, will carry out the Ford program, the Bergen dispatch stated.

Both in Bergen and Christiania, the belief was expressed that Ford's departure will have a serious, if not disastrous effect upon the peace enterprise. The Norwegian public, though not in sympathy with the peace plans, expressed admiration for the personality of Ford himself and declared that any success attained to the expedition must be credited solely to Ford. Opinion in Denmark and other European neutral countries apparently was the same.

SHIP WITH 300 SOULS IN DISTRESS AT SEA

Greek Liner Thessalonica, Off
Virginia Capes. Calls for
Help—Steamer to Aid Her.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The Greek liner Thessalonica, with 300 passengers aboard, was in trouble last night, 650 miles east of Norfolk, according to a wireless message received here today from the Italian steamship Stambolia.

The Stambolia received wireless calls of distress from the Greek ship and hurried to her assistance, arriving alongside shortly before midnight.

Awards Contract for Central Power Plant

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Newton today awarded a contract for the construction of a central heat, light, and power plant for Government buildings in Washington to the W. G. Cornell Company, of this city, at a cost of \$1,397,484.

The building will be erected on Government land in Water street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets southwest.

Generous Citizens Provide
Christmas Cheer and Com-
fort for Eight Families.

OPPORTUNITY ENDS TONIGHT

Many Small Contributions Swell
Charities Fund and Only
\$797 More Needed.

Great Ready for the Christmas Opportunity.

They are going fast. Closed are Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. And the rest are also closing fast.

On the eve of Christmas the Associated Charities today acknowledged contributions of \$1,931.65 toward the \$2,728.65 needed to provide for all the opportunities.

There is every hope that the amount will be fully subscribed by Christmas morning, unless every one takes the attitude, "Let the other fellow do it."

Christmas shoppers who have been too absorbed thus far to do their share in the opportunities may send their contributions to The Times or to the Associated Charities by mail.

The amount was swelled this morning by the receipt of many small amounts in the own cards sent out, and these contributions, though small, are highly appreciated as indicating a wide interest in the families listed in the opportunities.

The Associated Charities is not limiting its benevolence to these four hundred families. One gentleman has given two packing cases of toys and \$100 to be spent in Christmas cheer. A resident of Sandy Spring has sent twenty-eight Christmas baskets containing chicken, vegetables, and other presents to be given "where most needed, without regard to race or creed."

Other gifts sent in include \$1,000 from Saks & Co., ninety tickets for the over-Christmas morning, according to its usual custom. In addition to its other activities, the Associated Charities is acting as intermediary to many churches, clubs, and clubs, as well as private individuals, all of whom are anxious to give dinners and toys to needy families.

Organization Grateful.

The Associated Charities wishes to express to all who have contributed or who still propose to contribute to these opportunities, or its other for a Christmas cheer, its most sincere gratitude in the name of the scores of mothers and children who will be happy tomorrow because others have made it possible for them to share in the joys of the Christmas season.

Number 5 almost is closed, but considerable sums still are needed for a Christmas cheer. Two large gifts in connection with the smaller contributions helped make the closing possible. One gift sent in check for \$1,000 to be used for opportunities "where most needed." This has been distributed as indicated in the report today.

The Chalmers and Stroecker Club sent \$100 for Nos. 9 and 10, with a pledge of whatever sum is needed to close these opportunities in Washington.

Following its previous custom, the association will transfer to the remaining opportunities gifts which are designated for those now closed, unless the donor indicates some other method.

SWEDES RETALIATE; DETAIN BRITISH MAIL

BERLIN (via wireless to Saxville), Dec. 24.—In retaliation for the detention of Swedish mail by the British, the Swedish authorities have detained 1,500 English parcels destined for Russia, according to Stockholm advices today.

These parcels are held at Gothenburg, 250 at Helsingborg.

Stockholm dispatches also reported seizures by the British of registered letters aboard the Danish steamer Frisia, bound for European ports.

Stetson Employees Have Reason to Be Merry

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.—At the Christmas entertainment today of the John B. Stetson Company, hat manufacturers, twenty-eight deserving employees were each presented with a share of the company's common stock, valued at \$10.

In addition to these gifts every employee received a bonus, 2,000 tickets were distributed, 4,500 bronze medals awarded, and 318 shares of stock in the stock building and Loan Association given to the employees.

Kaiser Has Throat Cancer, German Reports Declare

ZURICH, Dec. 24.—Reports from German sources today said that the Kaiser was suffering from a recurrence of the trouble reported to have afflicted him last year, cancer of the throat.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 24.—Authoritative sources regarding the Kaiser's illness were lacking today. It was reported, however, that at the same time last year the Kaiser was ill and that the condition of his health was not improved. Within a few days he is expected to be out of doors and left his front on December 26.

Holiday Excursion Fares South and Southwest, including Texas, Oklahoma, Ark., Southern Railway—Advt.

"War Millionaires" Scatter Gold, Tiny Trees Bring Cheer to Trenches

"PROSPERITY FROLIC" CENTERS ABOUT WALL STREET

Thousands of Dollars Distributed
by Men of Wealth Among
Employees.

J. P. MORGAN & CO. LIBERAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Santa Claus drew rein in the financial district today and Wall Street broke into one of the wildest prosperity celebrations in its history.

"Huck links" on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on the curb, and on the Consolidated Stock Exchange, marked the advent of Christmas.

Employees of the stock exchanges, armed with miscellaneous devices, added to the holiday when \$25,000 in gold was distributed to them from a pool collected by the members.

Hundreds of other employees of financial institutions, nearly all of them rewarded by Christmas gratuities, thronged the streets, joining in the celebration.

Big Christmas Tree.

The main attraction was a 200-foot Christmas tree on the Consolidated Stock Exchange, the center of a "prosperity frolic." More than a thousand brokers, jobbers and dealers, about the tree and the times of a "documentary" and were drawn by the display of shining gold, and the sight of the "War Millionaires" who, whose riches as yet are only a few months old, remembered the most lowly stock exchange workers. Strive women, their tired, wrinkled faces wreathed in smiles, stood in line, drops in hand, and surveyed the antics of the crowd on the floor while a committee gave them presents from the huge tree.

Real Presents for Clerks.

J. P. Morgan & Co. is reported to have given employees 20 percent of their annual salaries as a Christmas gift. Scores of houses gave as much as 10 percent, and one concern, the Central Trust Company, distributed 20 percent of the annual payroll.

Prosperity helped New York in other quarters, too. Lawyers gave their clerks substantial remembrances, and many a pretty, intrepid spher carried home a month's salary.

Department stores were jammed with last minute shoppers, and clerks worked in relay to care for the rush. Around the entrances thousands of children and women, and others, peered curiously at the store windows, through the glass doors. The stores have sold millions in merchandise in the last few days, and the rush was to boost the figure.

All railroads reported exceedingly heavy traffic.

HOT SPRINGS BRIDAL PAIRS TO CELEBRATE

HOT SPRINGS, Va., Dec. 24.—There is a whisper of excitement, a fluttering of nerves, all about the Homestead Hotel today. It is reported without any confirmation, of course, because those mean Secret Service men are so uncommunicative and Charley Swain is away on a Christmas vacation that seven honeymoon couples will join tonight in a monster Christmas Eve celebration.

The real excitement came in the tip that one of the honeymoon couples would be the President and the new First Lady of the Land. At any rate, the other twelve honeymooners will have a celebration and will be joined by the hotel guests.

The President and Mrs. Wilson kept close indoors all morning. He is believed to have been giving the country of messages received during the last few days from Secretary Lansing, and that he has been in telephone conversation with officials in Washington.

The President's mail must be spread out, so that the curious on far haven't been able to note the number of Christmas gifts which the honeymoon couple are receiving, but the bags have today bulged with the gifts.

The President and Mrs. Wilson are keeping their Christmas plans strictly to themselves. Their fellow honeymooners wrote a joint letter to their family, pleading for their company at the celebration. It is believed the President and his wife will drop in for a few minutes, at least.

CAPITAL'S BUSIEST MAN



POSTMASTER MERRITT O. CHANCE.

CAR BEARS WILSON POSTOFFICE HERE GIFTS TO CHILDREN SETS NEW RECORDS

White House Automobile Carries Toys, Candy, and Fruit to President's Friends.

Handling Greatest Volume of Mail Ever Known in History of Washington.

There was a shell alarm of an automobile horn, children at play this morning in front of their homes along Washington road near the Washington Country Club paused in their games. Other children in the houses came running out. They knew that horn well.

And as fifty cars ranging in age from three years to twelve ran delightedly out to the curb, the big White House limousine, "loaded to the guards" with toys, candy, and fruit, wheeled up. Packages were handed to each, and I. H. Hoover, White House head usher, added "Merry Christmas" to all. It was the President's gift to the country, to some of his little friends.

This little scene is enacted each year. The children are those who always run.

(Continued on Second Page.)

COMMERCE BUREAU HOLDS CELEBRATION

Secretary Redfield made two warm, friendly, and congratulatory addresses to employees in the Department of Commerce at Christmas Eve celebrations today.

He paid high tribute to the employees in the department and said he was proud to be at the head of them.

The first address was made in the grand clerks' division. Gifts were distributed by Edward W. Lohr, envoy plenipotentiary of Santa Claus, who had an appropriate poem as he received each gift, and the complete, topper, bulky Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are keeping their Christmas plans strictly to themselves. Their fellow honeymooners wrote a joint letter to their family, pleading for their company at the celebration. It is believed the President and his wife will drop in for a few minutes, at least.

LANSING CLOSES OFFICE FOR XMAS

Secretary of State Lansing called a truce to the diplomatic war with European nations today and closed up the State Department over Christmas. The Secretary gave a "Merry Christmas" to the newspapermen as he left the building at noon to return away until Monday, unless called to his offices by some emergency.

Regardless of the success of Henry Ford's mission in getting the troops out of the trenches by Christmas, Secretary Lansing's action in closing the State Department for today will bring a truce in the diplomatic warfare.

RIBBONS OF LIGHT TO SPREAD ALL ALONG GERMAN LINES

Kaiser's Troops From France to
Poland Will Receive Pack-
ages From Home Tonight.

CHILDREN GET WAR TOYS

By CARL W. ACKERMAN.

BERLIN (via Amsterdam), Dec. 24.—Millions of tiny Christmas trees with lighted candles will cast a ribbon of light along the front of the German trenches from France to Poland and into Serbia tonight.

The last of the Christmas trees went forward to the trenches today. They are tiny branches, fixed to the top of Christmas packages, each carrying its tiny candle. With each package went the suggestion from the Berlin shopkeepers that the candles be lighted on Christmas eve after the contents had been removed. They were made small enough to be carried through the post.

Toy Shops Nearly Empty.

The boys and girls whose fathers are in the trenches will have a big Christmas tree in spite of the war. The toy shops of Berlin are nearly empty today.

Tomorrow morning the German boys and girls will be given a special gift. It will be a tiny Christmas tree, each carrying its tiny candle. With each package went the suggestion from the Berlin shopkeepers that the candles be lighted on Christmas eve after the contents had been removed. They were made small enough to be carried through the post.

No "Peace Toys."

One of the biggest shops shows a military toy railroad with whole trains carrying soldiers and guns to the front, automobile trucks ready to unload them upon their arrival.

There will be few "peace toys" and Germany this Christmas is giving the little girls who get are dressed. The Red Cross nurses as they go to the front will have a tiny toy soldier when they are wounded.

ORPHANS LOANED OUT FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK

Happy Trio From Bruen Home
Invited Out—Supply Too
Small to Meet Demand.

Three children over at Bruen Home today are the only ones who are playing, and can come here to play. The first of the orphans is being loaned out for Christmas week.

The boys have been "invited out" for a whole week.

Three families of Washington, who are willing to do, are children, and they searched about for a few days to find in their homes for Christmas. They found that the first of the orphans is being loaned out for Christmas week.

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Warm, Rainy Day Due For Christmas

Forecaster Bowie Unable to Make
More Cheerful Forecast
for Tomorrow.

A warm, rainy Christmas Day for Washington, according to Forecaster E. H. Bowie, of the Weather Bureau. Yesterday it was thought that fair and cold weather would prevail here Christmas Day, but the sudden development of a storm in the Rocky mountain region, which now is headed this way, has completely upset the weather schedule for the District, and compelled the weather sharps to change their minds.

The storm was entered over Arkansas this morning, and was moving in a northeasterly direction at a rate of speed which is calculated to bring it to Washington by tomorrow. There is little chance of snow, it is stated, as the temperature is well above freezing, with indications that it will rise still higher.

Unsettled weather prevails throughout the lower Mississippi and Ohio valleys today, and snow is falling in Illinois, Kansas and Iowa.

PASTOR RUSSELL.

The Battle of Armageddon.
New National, 8 p. m., Sunday, Free
—Advt.

JAPAN'S ARMY MAY ANSWER CHALLENGE OF SUBMARINES

Torpedoing of Liner Stirs
Tokyo—Continuance of Ac-
tivity Might Bring Land
Forces to Guard Suez.

United States Awaits Details
Before Sending Protest Be-
cause American Life Was
Endangered by Attack.

Japanese participation in the land operations of the world war as a result of the sinking of the Yasaka Maru by a German or Austrian submarine looms large today.

It is definitely stated at the Japanese embassy today that if it develops that a general program of attack on Japanese shipping 'as been launched by the central powers, the result will be to force the Japanese government to a greater measure of participation in the war on the side of its allies.

Both the State Department and the Japanese embassy are without official news of the sinking of the Yasaka Maru. No news has been received other than the press dispatches communicated to both governments.

EFFECT ON JAPAN.

The identity of the attacking submarine and the question of whether the Japanese vessel was torpedoed without warning or while trying to escape still awaits official verification.

The probable effect on Japan of this latest sea attack is the overwhelming feature of the submarine situation today. There are no further reports from Vienna on the Ancona case. Baron Ziwednick, the Austrian charge, called at the State Department and was closeted for some time with Secretary of State Lansing. It was reported that the charge had brought a confidential message to his government bearing on the Ancona case for transmission by the State Department to Vienna, but neither the charge nor the State Department would discuss the matter.

Tension Growing.

The tension growing at all the belligerent and neutral embassies in Washington as the war progresses became marked at the Japanese embassy today, when reports were received in Tokyo that an expedition had been started on its way to the sinking.

Officials of the embassy realized that Japan's hands must be forced and that the Atlantic's government, which has thus far had no participation in the war except the operations against the German fortifications at Kiaochow, must be forced to join.

It is not believed the sinking of the Yasaka Maru alone will force Japan into war on the land side," said Hiroaki Saito, attaché of the Japanese embassy, "but if it develops that this is part of a general program of submarine attacks on Japanese shipping then the Japanese government certainly will join."

Diplomats express the opinion that the sinking of this liner will result in pressure on the Japanese government to sentiment at home to get into the war on the land side. Just at this time, when the German and Turk are said to be ready to strike a blow at the Suez canal, a blow which if successful means a tremendous increase in the dispatch of Japanese reinforcements to the aid of the British on the Suez front.

Fearing added complications with Germany and Austria over the submarine issue, Secretary of State Lansing today awaited official reports of the sinking of the Japanese liner before taking definite action.

Protest Possible.

From unofficial reports to the department it is understood to have been a German submarine that sank the Japanese vessel. These reports are not accepted by the department. Secretary Lansing wishes to learn definitely whether it was a German or Austrian submarine, and whether the liner was torpedoed without warning or while trying to escape, before entering into any discussion of this case.

It is definitely stated today, however, that if the facts are as reported, a vigorous protest will be made to the government whose flag the submarine flies, irrespective of whether there was loss of life of passengers or crew and notwithstanding that the only American on board escaped.

The United States has made its position very clear that it draws no distinction between illegal attacks which cost American lives and those which place lives of Americans in jeopardy.

This new submarine issue arises at a time when a hopeful spirit was growing with reference to the entire submarine situation. Japanese reports

What the Year 1916 Has In Store For the World

The prophecies of the world's great soothsayers have a peculiar interest in this time of universal unrest. Madame Thebes, the great astrologist, of Paris, foretold with remarkable precision the events of the great war now in progress.

Gabriel Neith, Astrologer Extraordinary, has written for The Sunday Times a startling forecast for the year 1916. Whether you have faith in astrology or not, it will prove extraordinarily interesting.

Next Sunday In The Times